

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-31, 38-49, and 52-79 were pending prior to this amendment. In this Amendment, claims 3-8, 12, 14-31, 38-49, 52-54, 57-60, 62-73, and 76 have been amended, and claims 1, 2, 9-11, 13, 55, 56, 61, and 78 have been cancelled. Currently, claims 3-8, 12, 14-31, 38-49, 52-54, 57-60, 62-77, and 79 remain pending. Reconsideration of the claims as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action of December 11, 2009, claim 79 was indicated to be allowable. In this amendment, all non-cancelled claims have been made dependent directly or indirectly on allowed claim 79. The amendments made to claims 3-8, 12, 14-31, 38-49, 52-54, 57-60, 62-73, and 76 are mainly to track the language of claim 79, which provides antecedent basis, and to address grammatical or typographical errors. It is believed that these amendments place all the pending claims in condition for allowance.

Acceptance of the present amendment and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance forthwith. Alternatively, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final as narrowing the issues on appeal. Should the Examiner have any concerns regarding the foregoing, Applicants encourage the Examiner to contact the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 483-8022.

Respectfully submitted:

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